

FILED

JUN 29 2006

*Richard D. Kimmiller*  
WARRICK CO. AUDITOR

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-04

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING**  
**REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Warrick County Commissioners (the "Commissioners") are committed to enhancing economic development activities in a four (4) county region defined as Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties in the State of Indiana (the "Region"); and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize that the Region offers tremendous opportunities for investment from businesses which are located both within and outside the Region; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2005, the Southwestern Indiana Economic Development Task Force (the "Task Force") was established with a mission to further advance the economy of the Region in collaboration across public, private and non-profit sectors; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has reported that while the Region is a diverse marketplace overflowing with potential, efforts to capture new investment and to rapidly respond to business issues are hindered because there is a lack of coordination between economic development initiatives within the Region; and

WHEREAS, economic development must be elevated from the purely local to the regional stage with a focus on business attraction, retention and expansion; and

WHEREAS, in order to attract new business investment and to retain and expand existing business investment, the Region should immediately act to establish equitable and shared economic development principles and convert these principles into action; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has recommended that an umbrella organization be formed, to be known as the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, Inc. (the "Coalition"), to serve the economic development needs of the Region with a mission to build on past accomplishments and harness the Region's energies and collective resources in a more coordinated manner; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition is a non-profit corporation which will be overseen by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officials from each county in the Region, prominent business leaders, educators, workforce development and transportation providers and others positioned to support the needs of existing and prospective investors in the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition will be staffed by persons versed in regional economic development initiatives whose mission will be not only to further investment in the Region in its entirety but also to support the economic development efforts of each of the counties comprising the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition will act to develop and implement new strategies to modernize the Region's economic development structure and better align the Region's public, private and not-for-profit sectors; and


WHEREAS, the Coalition will act to properly coordinate and eliminate costly duplication of certain activities such as data gathering, marketing material development and target industry intelligence, which will allow economic developers to devote a greater percentage of their time and money to productive service delivery and economic enhancement and provide a mechanism for lead sharing and project tracking with the Region; and


WHEREAS, the formation of the Coalition will enhance the Region's business climate and enhance the ability of public/private leadership to speak as one resounding voice to state, federal and local governments, philanthropic institutions and others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that for the reasons set forth above, the Commissioners support and encourage the formation and mission of the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, Inc.

So resolved this 14 day of June, 2006.

  
Carl Jay Conner, President

  
Don Williams, Vice President

  
Phillip Baxter, Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Richard Kixmiller  
Auditor for Warrick County, Indiana